



Alabama Department of Homeland Security

New and Improved Website

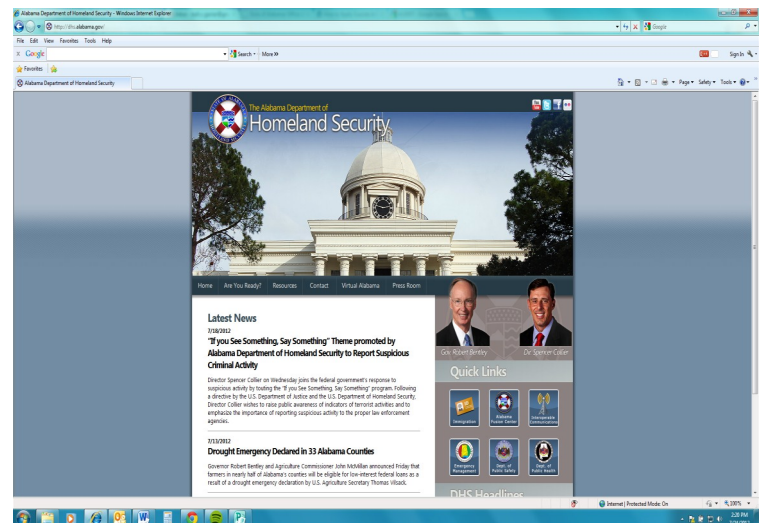
On June 17, 2012 Director Spencer Collier announced the launch of the department's new and improved website.

In an attempt to create a more efficient website, ALDHS collaborated to produce a homepage that provides a more comprehensive source on department information and resources.

Streamlined to be more user friendly, the website will provide the user with the latest press releases, social media sites, access important links to state and federal sites.

For more information,
please visit

dhs.alabama.gov



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Always On ALERT

Within minutes, a simple phone call can alter an otherwise routine day into one of tragedy. With the knowledge gained from Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training, first responders can be ready in a disaster with the tools and confidence they need on a moment's notice.

ALERT sponsors ALERT training to local first responder law enforcement agencies to provide the techniques and the self-assurance to make entry in an unexpected situation and end the violence as quickly and effectively as possible.

ALERT is a program taught to officers to equip them to respond to active shooter situations. Due to unforeseen tragedies such as the Columbine High School and the Virginia Tech University, first responder's ways of addressing active shooter incidents have changed significantly.

Recently, this training was recognized by officers of the Montgomery Police Department in their handling of the Montgomery Post Office shooting. They credited their ability to enter, search, and locate the individual without incident to their ALERT training.

According to Lt. Gene Wiggins, ALERT is invaluable to those who respond to these crises, saying "I am so thankful Director Collier and his staff understand the importance of Active Shooter Response Training. This training is the most realistic environment we can put our officers in to help them be successful if they are ever faced with an active shooter situation."

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-Lt. Gene Wiggins

ALERT

Coordinator



To schedule an ALERT class in your area, contact Lt. Gene Wiggins
at 334-353-3053

In January, a week long training session provided state and local law enforcements with the necessary skills to conduct protective detail to any dignitaries and provided force protection for necessary assets during a natural disaster. Officers were provided training in vehicle operations, protective formations, and site planning/advance preparation.

Director Spencer Collier acknowledged the need to enhance the preparation of our first responders after such events as the April 27th, 2011 tornado outbreak and the 2010 Gulf oil spill. Such specialized training is essential to the law enforcement community.

This specialized training also allows local law enforcements to assist in the protection of senior State and Federal government officials. The Alabama Department of Homeland Security is committed to providing Alabama's responders with the critical training necessary to protect and accomplish any homeland security mission.



ALDHS Awards Grant to Parrish Police Department

With a motto stating, "Old Town with a new Spirit" the rural town of Parrish, AL couldn't have said it better now that it was recently awarded a grant in the amount of \$16,700 towards new and improved tactical equipment.

The equipment received will play a pivotal role in the success of the Parrish Police Department. Director Collier also emphasized the importance of tactical equipment for law enforcement and first responders.

"I appreciate this opportunity to provide these funds to the City of Parrish Police Department to ensure their law enforcement and first responders have all the essential equipment necessary to ensure the safety of the citizens of Parrish," Director Collier said.



Across the State

For Director Collier, an effective means of communication is only one ingredient needed to ensure the safety of their residents, however, it is a vital one.

The Director announced that the City of Prichard Police Department was recently awarded a grant in the amount of \$40,000 towards its interoperable communications.



Interoperable Communications

“Effective communication is paramount during disaster situations,” Director Spencer Collier said. “Emergency communications protocols provide law enforcement and first responders with the necessary information to ensure the safety of our citizens. These funds will assist the Prichard Police Department in enhancing their communications internally as



Mobile Police Department Awarded Grant

The City of Mobile Police Department has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$7,500 towards personal protective equipment.

Walker County EMA Given Funds for Radio Equipment

ALDHS awarded a grant for the Walker County Emergency Management Agency in the amount of \$32,000 towards weather radio equipment.

It is essential that law enforcement have essential equipment necessary to mitigate hazardous conditions caused by severe weather and ensure the safety of our citizens.

After the storms of April 27, 2011, ALDHS is committed to providing first responders the essential tools they need so they can provide the best care possible in such conditions.



Executive Order 32



Governor Robert Bentley issues Executive Order 32 creating the Integrated State Law Enforcement Task Force. ALDHS Director Spencer Collier was named Chairman of the new committee that is directed to expose and eliminate duplication of services and make law enforcement more efficient.

The mission of the Task Force is to streamline the 22 agencies with law enforcement capabilities and find real, cost-saving measures without compromising public safety.

Earlier this year, an independent legislative group, spearheaded by Senate President Pro Tem Del Marsh, laid out an executive lead consolidation plan for law enforcement. This group recommended combining many law enforcement functions in to the state Department of Public Safety. It estimated \$260 million in savings over 10 years.

Director Collier said the Governor's Task Force will examine the intricate details of any proposal for consolidation. Governor Bentley directed the Task Force to present a plan of consolidation and savings of 10% by December 15 to prepare bills for the legislative session starting in February 2013. Additionally, the Task Force was charged with the immediate coordination of the state's day to day lawful actions.

Director Collier is dedicated to making this process efficient as possible. After the signing of the EO on June 21, the Task Force has hit the ground running and has met sev-

eral times to discuss each agencies responsibilities and resources.



Photo Left to Right: Senate Pro Tem Del Marsh, Lt. Gov. Kay Ivey, ABC Administrator Mac Gipson, ALDHS Director Spencer Collier, and Public Safety Director Col. Hugh McCall look on as Governor Bentley signs Executive



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Leah Garner Named ALDHS Public Information Officer

Leah Garner is the former Deputy Press Secretary for Governor Robert Bentley. Leah also worked in Governor Bentley's campaign headquarters while in graduate school.

Graduating from the University of Alabama, having received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education, Leah taught middle school social studies. Teaching 7th and 8th grade World History, Geography, Government, and Economics, she also served as Department Head of Social Studies.

While obtaining her Master's of Arts in Communication Studies she worked as a Graduate Assistant in the Alabama Athletics Office for the Crimson Tide Foundation.



Leah Garner

"I'm thrilled to join the Alabama Department of Homeland Security and excited to be another member of a group who is committed to serving our state. My job is to be the bridge between the department and the media as well as the public. I hope to make our department as accessible as possible."

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